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"THE HONGKONG TELEGRAPH" Office  
Folger's Hill,  
Hongkong, December 16, 1891.

## The Hongkong Telegraph.

HONGKONG, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1891.

## TELEGRAMS.

(Special to the Hongkong Telegraph.)  
ANOTHER STEAMER ASHORE.  
SWATOW, December 16th.  
Messrs. Butterfield & Swire's (?) steamer *Yan-  
maria* ashore on the Boat Rocks and will probably  
break up as there is a strong monsoon blowing  
and high sea running.

(From the Straits Times.)  
SPEECH OF THE ITALIAN PREMIER.  
LONDON, December 5th.  
The Marquis di Rudini speaking in the Italian  
Chamber declared that the temporal power was  
long ago dead and buried, that the attitude of  
Austria with regard to the papacy was sincerely  
friendly to Italy and that, in the event of Italian  
unity being threatened, Austrian troops would  
certainly render assistance.

## PRINCE GEORGE OF WALES.

December 7th.  
H. R. H. Prince George has had a relapse,  
and his condition is less satisfactory.

## PRINCE ALBERT VICTOR BETROTHED.

H. R. H. the Duke of Clarence and Avondale is  
betrothed to H. R. H. the Princess Mary of Teck.  
[The Duke of Clarence and Avondale, otherwise  
known as Prince Albert Victor, is the eldest  
son of the Prince of Wales and was born in  
January, 1864. He was educated at Trinity  
College, Cambridge, and at the University of  
Heidelberg. Previous to his entering as an  
undergraduate, however, he had passed two  
years as a naval cadet on board the *Albatross*,  
and in 1882 started with his brother Prince  
George of Wales on a voyage round the world  
in the *Acachania*. He returned to England in  
1882. On leaving the University, Prince  
Albert Victor proceeded to Aldershot to pre-  
pare for the army. H. R. H. was invested with  
the Order of the Garter in 1883. In company  
with his brother he visited Ireland in 1887, and  
was created Hon. L.L.D. of Cambridge, in 1888.  
H. R. H. returned in the spring of 1890 from his  
visit to India. He took his seat in the House  
of Lords on the 23rd June.]

The Princess Victoria Mary of Teck is the  
only daughter of the Princess Mary of  
Cambridge and the Prince of Teck, and was  
born in 1867.]

## THE REVOLT IN CHINA.

The British Consuls at Newchwang and  
Tientsin have telegraphed to Her Majesty's  
Consul at Shanghai that the rebels have com-  
pletely dispersed.

## LOCAL AND GENERAL.

The steamer *Chusan* was docked at Kowloon  
today.

A REGULAR meeting of Perseverance Lodge,  
No. 1165, E.C., will be held in Freemasons'  
Hall, Zealand Street, this evening, at 8.30 for  
9 o'clock precisely. Visiting brethren are  
cordially invited.

WE are informed by the Agent of the O. & O.  
S.S. Co. that the steamship *Galathea*, with mails,  
&c., from San Francisco to the 26th ult., has  
arrived at Yokohama, and will leave for this  
port at 4 p.m. to-morrow.

AMONGST the removals from the Active List of  
the Royal Navy given in November's *Naval List*  
is that of Assistant Paymaster Edwin C. Peck,  
late of the *Rattler*, who left Hongkong in April  
last for England and has not since been heard of.

THE Hongkong public will be pleased to notice  
that Professor Friedenthal will give a second  
entertainment on Saturday night in the Theatre  
Royal, which is infinitely more suitable than the  
bare ballet, with its Quaker-meeting seats, of  
last night's exhibition. We shall be all there,  
for the advent of a real musical artist is an event  
in the history of the colony.

WHILE the cordial and magnificent reception to  
Prince Damrong, of Siam, by the Kaiser, was  
undoubtedly prompted in a large part by a desire to  
sustain German interests and influence in that  
Kingdom, it is also construed (in some quarters)  
as a notice to France that Germany will be  
found championing Siamese independence  
against French aggression. Prince Damrong,  
himself, evidently so interpreted it, as shown by  
his subsequent remarks to the *Times* Paris  
correspondent. Part of the Prince's mission to  
Europe is to sound England and Germany in  
respect to what protection Siam could expect  
should the French become too aggressive.  
England is said to have given a favorable reply,  
and the indications are that Germany will do  
the same.

THE Wuchang correspondent of the *N. C. Daily  
News* writes on the 7th inst.—In the *N. C.  
Daily News* received to-day there emerges to  
the surface of report once more the notorious  
name of Li Hung—this time as the leader of the  
sedition movement in the north. There is  
something very peculiar in the way this name is  
brought to do duty. Some months ago a local  
of some bandits in the north of this province  
upon some barrowmen was magnified by rumour  
into a rebellion. At that time the name given to  
your correspondent as that of the leader was  
Li Hung. Of course the whole was false; but  
that was the name said to be at the head of the  
imagined rebellion. A few days ago a letter  
from Mr. Drummond assured us that Chang  
Chih-ying had slipped an incipient Yangtze valley  
rebellion in the bud. The strange point is that Mr.  
Drummond's information, correct or incorrect,  
drawn up from Chinese sources, again men-  
tioned Li Hung as the head-centre of sedition.  
We are now told that this northern disturbance  
may possibly be anti-dynastic, and that it is  
under the leadership of the same redoubtable Li  
Hung, who is seeking revenge on the Tartar  
General. In the uncertainty it is very likely that  
this report may prove as mistaken as others, but  
it is a fact that Li Hung is to move against the  
government; the second emissaries have been  
sprung with this name? This idea of  
him as the "coming man" is very tempting to  
one's powers of imaginative suggestion; but it  
is wise to restrain such powers, and a good check  
is furnished in the assurance volunteered me by  
usually well-informed Chinese that this man, or  
at any rate his father's son, is in reality a well-  
behaved and loyal Tartar in office. It is obvious  
that there is a mistake somewhere; it would be  
equally able to trace the origin of the  
speculation played round the name.

An additional to head of stamps for Raah bat-  
tery have been shipped from Melbourne by the  
B. I. steamer *Meroka*. They should arrive at  
Singapore about the end of this month.

It is reported in a Service paper that the  
Admiralty will shortly commission the *Archimedes*  
for the China Station. Although launched in  
1888 she has never been commissioned for any  
foreign station; she is a sister ship of the  
*Leander*.

THE *Oreanta*, which was to have sailed from  
Portsmouth with troops for China on the 15th  
ult., had to postpone her departure owing to the  
great storm. She left on the 18th ult., bound  
for the Mediterranean ports, Colombo, Singapore,  
and Hongkong. She should arrive at Hong-  
kong on January 6th.

THERE was a very large and appreciative audience  
at Professor Friedenthal's musical *soirée* in St.  
Andrew's Hall last night, when the masterly  
exposition of the pianoforte's possibilities  
exceeded the rosiest anticipations. We can only  
express our regret that owing to the libel action  
now proceeding in the Supreme Court we are so  
prevented for space and time that it is impossible  
to deal with the concert adequately, or give  
Professor Friedenthal's unequalled abilities that  
justice which we would wish. This duty we  
must leave to those who heard him, and who  
cannot but confirm our statement that to hear  
him is to hear the pianoforte at its best, its ideal.

An extraordinary general meeting of the share-  
holders of the *China Shipways* General Steam  
Navigation Company (Limited) was held on  
10th ult., at the Cannon-street Hotel (London)  
for the purpose of passing resolutions to the  
effect that, it being desirable to reconstruct the  
company, it should be wound up voluntarily,  
and that the liquidators of the old company, viz.,  
Messrs. D. Reid and John Potter, be authorised  
to consent to the registration of a new company,  
to be named the *China Mutual Steam Navigation*  
Company (Limited). Mr. David Reid presided.  
The resolutions were carried unanimously,  
and confirmed at a subsequent meeting.

## SUPREME COURT.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

(Before Chief Justice Sir J. Russell and  
a Special Jury.)

December 16th.

MINIHNETT V. FRASER-SMITH.

On resuming this morning, Mr. Fraser-Smith  
addressed the jury in his defence. He said:—May  
it please your Lordship, my gentleman, I am  
pleased to see you. I am a very old and tried  
juror, there is a very old and tried saying that  
"One story is good and another is told." We  
had a practical illustration of that in the  
address of the learned counsel for the prosecu-  
tion yesterday. The first thing I want to  
impress upon you, gentlemen, is that the  
eloquent oration delivered to you by Mr.  
Francis must be taken simply as a rhetorical  
display and nothing more, until proof is  
brought to substantiate his statements. So far  
as we have got, there are many very  
damaging statements, entirely unsubstantiated  
—prophetic and display of rhetoric utterly  
unsubstantiated; and his Lordship will tell you that  
until it is supported by evidence it is of  
no value whatever. Mr. Francis went a very  
long way from the issue which you have to try,  
and I thank him for having done so, for he has  
assisted me as much as he could in the  
determination of this case. You are here,  
gentlemen, to try a charge of libel alleged  
to be contained in two articles published in  
the newspaper of which I am proprietor  
and editor, the *Hongkong Telegraph*. In intro-  
ducing one of the two articles, Mr. Francis said  
he had put in that article entire, out of fairness  
to me. I am only sorry the learned counsel did  
not extend this consideration to the other article,  
which he put in only in part. That necessitates  
my reading to you the whole of the article now.

After reading the whole of the article of  
August 12th, 1890, Mr. Fraser-Smith continued:—  
The defence is a plea of privilege; and I go  
further than that, I justify the article. Had it  
been merely the defence of a "fair newspaper  
criticism," I should not have felt the necessity,  
after all that has taken place, of going out of my  
way to view justification; though I have very  
strong views on that point; but I might simply  
have pleaded guilty, and allowed the matter to  
have rested on the issue of the amount of  
damage suffered. But I have gone further,  
I have been compelled to go further, and to  
plead justification. On their side they are  
standing on one ground, that of malice. I  
will lay it before you (subject to correction  
from his Lordship) that unless the learned  
counsel proves absolute and actual malice—not  
merely malice in thought, but in fact—he has  
no case; for malice in thought and in fact  
are two very different things. That is the  
simple statement of the case—the defence is  
privilege and justification, and the plaintiff relies  
on proving malice. I can state nothing else in  
my address of counsel to deal with it. It  
will be my duty later on to say a few words on  
the question of privilege, which Mr. Francis very  
fairly defined. I may mention that throughout the  
whole of his speech Mr. Francis spoke of myself  
being the author of all these paragraphs and articles  
which he quoted. Now, the law is perfectly  
clear, the responsibility is mine as printer and  
publisher; but I may tell you that this article of  
August 12th was not written by me, but by Mr.  
Ward, a member of my staff. Still, I will take  
the liberty of saying this, and I will prove it,  
that there is nothing in this article which is  
libelous or defamatory, to anybody; it is  
clearly not offensive in any possible way  
to any individual, but simply a comment  
on the proceedings in a trial in summary juris-  
diction in this Court.

After reading the first part of the article, Mr.  
Fraser-Smith said that on the question of veracity  
raised by Mr. Francis, it was for the jury to  
judge of the meaning of the words used, and  
whether anything more than "mercenary" was  
meant, and whether that term was not justified.  
He admitted that the "case in Court" quoted  
in the article had been intended to refer to  
Minihnett and nobody else. He said that the  
words "mercenary" were aimed at Minihnett, and  
said "venture to lay it before you that whether  
this was or was not fair comment, it was not  
libelous, or that he was in the 'Public Perks'  
department. I cannot understand why Mr.  
Francis should have thought fit to introduce  
these comments as a sort of footnote to the  
other article—which we admit is defamatory,  
and will prove to be true.

After reading the article in its entirety and  
commenting freely, Mr. Fraser-Smith went on to say  
that although the article was not written by him,  
he was only too glad to take the responsibility  
of it himself, and let the jury read  
it in their own way. "It was the custom among  
comment, when doubt existed as to the meaning  
of statements on which cases depended, to append  
what were called 'innuendoes,' i.e., to give their  
meaning to reports or statements made in the  
newspapers. This practice would be better  
dropped, and the meaning left entirely to the  
jury to decide, and not to a clever barrister."

His Lordship—The jury have to decide if the  
innuendoes as put by the barrister is correct.

The defendant then went on to deal at some  
length with the meanings attached by Mr.  
Francis to the articles published. He then  
said:—

We are not shirking this inquiry, we are  
courting it, and have courted it. I deliber-  
ately accuse Minihnett, by my plea of  
justification, of having committed two offences—  
of committing an indecent assault on a  
young Chinese girl, and of having seduced  
and now living with a Eurasian girl, daughter  
of the woman Wong A Ngan, who was his kept  
woman for seven years. I have charged this  
man with the disgraceful conduct of a Far  
Eastern Court seven years with the mother.  
If I prove that and I will prove it, I ask  
you, gentlemen of the jury, what damages  
this man is entitled to for "defamation of  
character"—such a character! I have pled  
privilege means, that every newspaper  
man and every man has a perfect right to com-  
ment on all proceedings in a Court of Justice,  
and on all the public acts of any public man  
or paid servant of the public. As to the law  
on that point I have the opportunity of ad-  
dressing you later, but I shall be very brief, as  
his Lordship is much more competent than any  
of us to do that. I do not always agree with  
judges' rulings, but I think his Lordship's  
decision as to the law of libel is the best ever  
uttered. It amounts to only two words—"fair  
comment." What is fair criticism is not  
libel. That is the best definition of what  
a newspaper may do without libelling  
that I have ever come across. Mr. Francis went  
out of his way to take up three quarters of an  
hour over what might have been said in two  
words fair criticism. If a man goes beyond  
that, to attack anybody unfairly, the law will not  
allow it. If you find I was influenced by private  
spite or ill-will, then you will decide; it is for  
you to consider whether malice has been estab-  
lished or not. I think on the evidence you will  
agree that far from bearing ill will, I did not  
even know the man, nor anything about him.  
I met him four or five times in my life. I have  
seen him in the Court, with his solicitors. It  
will be for you to consider whether I am  
a monster, a blackguard, a scoundrel, as  
intended by the learned counsel yesterday.  
If so, then by all means give this man his  
damages, to which he is entitled for what I have  
said. He will admit, I know, that he lived  
with A Ngan a number of years; he will admit  
that he is living with Emily now; he will admit  
he has a wife and two children in England; and  
he will probably admit a good deal more when  
we have the pleasure of seeing him in the  
witness box. I also hope that we are going, as  
his Lordship expressed a desire in chambers a  
few days ago, to have A Ngan in the box.

The Chief Justice asked if defendant would  
call her.

Mr. Fraser-Smith said she was in plaintiff's  
hands.

Mr. Francis asked his Lordship to call on the  
defendant to say what information Mr. Quincey  
(Detective Inspector) had given him on the  
subject in the last 24 hours. The woman was  
not in plaintiff's hands.

Mr. Fraser-Smith—She cannot be found.  
We obtained permission from the Acting  
Captain Superintendent of Police and every  
endeavour was made by the detectives to find  
her, but we have not been able to do so.

His Lordship—Is the woman in the colony?  
If so I can call her. I certainly think this  
woman should be called.

Defendant—I promised your Lordship I would  
go to Amoy to look for her. I went, and found  
that she had come down to Hongkong by the  
steamer on the day I went for her.

His Lordship explained that Mr. Fraser-Smith  
applied in chambers for a commission to  
examine the woman in Amoy, and his Lordship  
then said he thought, and he now thought  
still, that the right and proper thing was to have  
the woman before the jury rather than simply  
have her words on a paper written by an official  
in Amoy, where there was no opportunity for the  
jury to judge of her demeanour. Now it was said  
she was in the Colony. Did defendant wish to  
examine her?

Defendant—If I can find her I shall be only  
too pleased to put her in the box. I know she  
is in the Colony. She has been seen here.  
His Lordship—If she is, I shall certainly see  
that she is called, if she is anywhere in the  
jurisdiction. If you take out a subpoena I will  
see that you have every possible aid.

Mr. Fraser-Smith thanked his Lordship and  
added that when Mr. Francis asked what infor-  
mation Quincey had supplied, the learned counsel  
was "chancing his hand," for Quincey had told  
nothing. He then again continued his address,  
showing that most of the points made by Mr.  
Francis were very good points, true and weighty,  
applying to matters not before the Court at  
all, but that on the real point of the alleged  
libel itself he dared not touch. The article  
itself contained perhaps a good deal of chaff,  
perhaps a good deal of sarcasm, which Mr.  
Francis might not understand. For instance  
—"We don't know who prosecuted." It was  
perfectly evident to everybody what was  
intended to be conveyed. The case came on,  
a most important case, of an alleged crime  
for which in most Australian colonies a  
man could have been hanged, and yet Mr.  
Francis said that he ought to know, seeing  
that he served a very honourable apprenticeship  
as a police magistrate—that more important cases  
happened hundreds of times and no Crown  
Solicitor appeared. Now, Major General  
Gordon said, on oath, that he had never  
known one such case before, in that Court,  
and he never knew a serious case of any kind  
where the Crown Solicitor did not appear. Yet  
Mr. Francis told the jury that cases occurred  
every day, hundreds of times, without the Crown  
Solicitor appearing. Here was a serious case  
where the man was arrested, was put on his  
baul, and when he came up in the police court there  
was nobody to prosecute him! And an equally  
big blunder was made in charging him with  
rape, on the *ipse dixit* of Ward's statement,  
banded in simply as ground of investigation  
and not as a formal charge. They brought the  
prisoner up on this foolish charge, and put  
an inspector of police to prosecute, a man  
who did not pretend to understand the  
law. Where was the Crown Solicitor?  
He ought to have been there, and that was just  
what the article said. He was in many  
cases of not half the importance of this.  
That might be proper administration of  
justice, but it was also a fitting matter for  
public comment and if the Government of Hong-  
kong would assail the editor of the *Telegraph*  
for commenting on it, he would be there  
to fight, and to defend himself. But he would  
not defend himself on this ground; against Mr.  
Francis, who did not represent the Government  
in this matter. He only represented Minih-  
nett, and whether Minihnett was guilty of the  
crime alleged or not, was not the question raised  
in the article; it was whether the case was or  
was not tried properly. The jury had to decide  
whether that article was or was not fair com-  
ment on the conduct of the case, as far as  
concerned Minihnett; but the article did not raise  
the question of his guilt at all. Did the evidence  
of that woman, who had lived seven years with  
Minihnett, who was his pensioner, who was living  
on \$10 a month paid by him, and who was

to the truth of these allegations against him, and  
saw that she actually saw the indecent assault,  
and who persevered in her statement—that  
old woman, call off by this gentleman who  
wanted now to vindicate his character, aware of  
these facts; Chinese witnesses, always made  
mistakes as to details, and also did so, but stuck  
to her main point that she saw Minihnett in the  
position indicated, and her evidence had never  
been controverted—did this evidence call for  
more adequate investigation? If so, the article  
was not unfair. Had the Crown Solicitor done  
his duty? An application was made by  
Major General Gordon to the Colonial  
Secretary to have assistance in prosecuting the  
case, and that assistance was refused him.  
Why? Had the Crown Solicitor been present,  
the first thing he would have done would have  
been to amend the charge to one of "indecent  
assault," which was the proper charge according  
to the evidence. Mr. Francis accused Mr.  
Fraser-Smith of practically laying the information  
off. If that had been so, he (the speaker) was  
not a lawyer, but he would have known better  
than to frame the charge in such a way. It was  
a ridiculous affair, ridiculously carried out, and  
a perfect theme for public criticism. As to  
the part taken by the editor of the *Hongkong  
Telegraph* and Mr. Ward in giving the infor-  
mation, this was only what the law enjoin-  
ed, on any citizen having knowledge of any  
offence supposed to have been committed—  
as shown in the Scottish High Court of Justice,  
Lightbody v. Gordon, 9 Scotch Sessions Cases,  
*Odgers Digest* (1887) which made such action  
compulsory.

Mr. Francis remarked that the charge of rape  
was a shot, and Mr. Fraser-Smith was the gun-  
powder; the shot would never have gone forth  
but for the powder.

Mr. Fraser-Smith went on to say that the  
charge of malice on account of a civil action was  
absurd, as the money sued for had been paid at  
the time, and all was over between them. The  
only real allegation which might hurt plaintiff  
was on her own admissions. A man was  
supposed to be in Government service, and spent  
much of his time in private business, and was living  
in open prostitution with the daughter of his  
concubine, was utterly unfit to remain in the  
Government service. That admission alone  
was quite sufficient to set aside any question of  
"damages for defamation of character." No  
money could be recovered in an action for libel  
if the libel was true. His Lordship would correct  
him if that statement was wrong. (His Lordship  
did not.) This man was living with and had had  
children by the daughter of the woman whom he  
had kept and then discarded. And such  
was the man who dared to come into the open  
light of a British Court of Justice and ask  
for damages for defamation! He wanted to  
"vindicate his character." Why, he had none! A  
man like that could not have a character.  
Damages for loss sustained by his reputation!  
Where was the loss?

Mr. Fraser-Smith then dealt at length with  
attempts alleged to have been made to get  
witnesses to leave the Colony, or to intimi-  
date them or suborn them. His address is too  
long to publish in full, and much of it dealt with  
evidence which will come out in due course. At  
the conclusion of his speech the first witness was  
at once called.

William Goulburn, for ten years clerk in  
the Surveyor General's Department, now unem-  
ployed, said he had been 20 years in Hongkong.  
He knew Minihnett since 1877 or 1878, and very  
intimately since 1885. In 1888 he was living at  
14, St. Francis Street. About September of that  
he heard reports about Minihnett.

Mr. Francis objected to the question as to  
what the reports were. Objection upheld.

Minihnett was living about four doors away  
from witness, with a woman Wong A Ngan, and  
with an adopted daughter Li Afat, and A Ngan's  
own daughter Emily. "Chop Dollar" was  
witness believed, another adopted daughter of  
A Ngan, and lived with them in Queen's Road,  
before coming to St. Francis Street. Witness  
of his own knowledge swore that Minihnett  
afterwards kept and cohabited with "Chop  
Dollar." Believed \$300 was promised to Wong  
A Ngan for her. A Ngan told him. He never  
saw Minihnett. In September 1888, on the  
6th day, witness's wife's birthday, there was party  
at his house. On that or the next night A Ngan  
came to the house and complained bitterly.  
She brought a small pair of child's drawers,  
covered with blood. Mrs. Goulburn was  
present. A Ngan made a statement to her, which  
witness heard.

Mr. Francis objected to that statement being  
repeated.

Witness knew that shortly after this the child  
Li Afat disappeared. He had a conversation  
with Minihnett (on the subject of a supposed  
outrage) in the Government office, within four  
weeks after September 6th. Minihnett said  
"You have heard all that has been said, and the  
remarks that have been passed, and the state-  
ments made by A Ngan to you and Mrs. Goul-  
burn." Witness said "Yes, Jack." His reply  
was "What do you think of it?" Witness said  
he thought that as far as appearance went, it  
was very black against him, and no doubt the  
child's disappearance did not look well in his  
(Minihnett's) favour. He replied "Above all  
men, Goulburn, you shouldn't doubt me, and I  
think I ought to have your confidence." Witness  
said "Well, Jack, I must confess that in  
face of what I have seen and heard about  
"Chop Dollar" and Afat, you ought  
at least to make some reparation for injury done  
to A Ngan in accordance with her statement." The  
plaintiff replied "I don't feel disposed to do  
anything, but you know, Willy, I will do  
anything for A Ngan, but in face of her having  
said the child I hardly know what to do.  
But I think at the same time it was about the  
best thing she could do." That was all the  
conversation he could remember at the time.  
He might have said that it was a Chinese  
custom to sell children. Had never seen  
Afat since nor heard anything about her.  
Knew Emily. She came from Canton, where  
she was in a Chinese convent. Saw her on  
the day of her arrival. Minihnett said "He  
was going to adopt her." That was all.  
Aunt 1888. She was about 15. Minihnett  
told witness he paid \$600 for her release. Mrs.  
Goulburn told him she had a shop at 70 Queen's Road  
East, and often A Ngan, Emily, and plaintiff  
were there together, buying things. Minihnett  
wanted to dress Emily in European clothes. He  
did so. She went to the French Convent  
subsequently. She left after a few months.  
Because Minihnett outraged her (she being a  
day scholar; home every evening) and her  
mother complained of it to Mrs. Goulburn in  
witness's presence. The girl was put up for  
permanent board in the Italian convent. Her  
mother sent her there. Emily attended Mrs.  
Hanlan's School in Hollywood Road for some  
time. Witness remembered when she  
was brought home, as plaintiff said, she  
would be "company for the old woman." Witness  
visited Minihnett once in 1889. Emily came  
after "midnight" and called him out  
of bed to go to the house A Ngan with her  
hair loose down her back. On the ground floor  
Minihnett was in the top floor. Witness went  
up to see him lying on what A Ngan and Emily  
said (John Reech lived on the intermediate  
floor). Found Minihnett there. There were  
some non-commissioned officers of R.A. or R.F.  
present. Minihnett asked me (witness said) to  
"about a bottle of Champagne. He seemed sur-  
prised to see me at that hour of the morning. He

did so in presence of the strangers. There were two  
"outsiders" present. I told him that Emily had  
come to the house and said there was an awful  
row between Minihnett and her mother. That  
was uttered in the presence of the said outsiders.  
She said that Minihnett had her mother by the  
hair and dragged her out of the room because she  
would not attend to the soldiers and give them  
supper at that early hour. I said to plaintiff it  
was a pity to make a row at that hour. He  
replied: "Come on, Bill, let's have a bottle of  
champagne." I did not accept it. I said, "It is  
rather early in the morning to drink champagne." I  
am aware that the woman "Chop Dollar" went  
to live with Minihnett. The woman Emily is,  
I believe, now living with the plaintiff. A Ngan  
was a constant visitor to my house after that  
trouble. She was a personal friend of Mrs.  
Goulburn. She often made complaints and  
often referred to what she had been treated  
to, day. I would say that the bad treat-  
ment by Minihnett was taken to heart by  
the woman very much. I have known Mr.  
Webber for fully five years. Mr. Webber was  
cognisant of what had taken place between  
the woman and the plaintiff.

To his Lordship—I refer to the alleged  
indecencies between Minihnett and Chop Dollar,  
Emily, and Li Afat.

Continuing—I am aware that my wife and the  
woman went to consult Mr. Webber, after the  
alleged outrage upon Li Afat. Minihnett told  
me that he had consulted Mr. Webber, respect-  
ing paying off A Ngan owing to the trouble  
over the little girl, Li Afat.

To his Lordship—He told me he had spoken  
to Webber about paying off A Ngan in regard  
to trouble over both Emily and Li Afat.

Witness (continuing)—I was on very intimate  
terms with the plaintiff. We were often and  
constantly together. Webber and Minihnett  
were on most intimate terms. I saw him at Mr.  
Webber's frequently, on Sundays. The plaintiff  
Minihnett was in charge of No. 2 Conduit road,  
and drew double pay from Government for  
doing duty on Sunday although in Webber's  
house most of the time. I can't say whether  
it was I who introduced Mr. Webber to the  
plaintiff—I'm not sure. I acted as free agent for  
Minihnett in money-lending transactions. The  
services were gratuitous. I rendered the service  
to him gratis in consideration of his kindnesses  
to me in the past. He carried on an extensive  
line in the pawn-broking and usury line.  
I'm fairly well acquainted with the rules of the  
Government in respect to their servants trading.

His Lordship—I don't see why a pawnshop  
the Government service should not lend out his  
money.

Mr. Fraser-Smith—Just so, but it does not  
allow them to carry on the business of a pawn-



Continuing, wine said:—I had a row with Mr. Webster and I kicked him down stairs and told him he was a—

At this point the witness was called to order, as he was very excited and using quite unparliamentary language.

Continuing—I visited Minibonett in getting up his case against Mr. Webster in connection with a promissory note. Minibonett, while I was in the employ of Mr. Webster, came to the office very often.

Pressed by Mr. Fraser-Smith for a direct answer to the question, "Did you assist him in getting up the case?" he said:—I have no recollection of assisting Minibonett to get up his case in respect to the promissory note for \$1,500. I sent for Mr. Goulburn about two weeks ago. I saw and spoke to him yesterday morning, after the Court adjourned, and he came to my office and had a whisky and soda. I did not make any special overtures to him then. About a fortnight ago, while in conversation with Goulburn, I told him he was a fool not to go to Bangkok when he had, according to his own statement, a job ready for him. I have not seen Mrs. Goulburn or spoken to her about any matters pending in Court within the past seven weeks.

Mr. Fraser-Smith:—Now, Mr. Van Epps, I want you to be careful. You are on your oath, mind you. You must answer this next question carefully. He then asked witness whether he had written any letters to Mrs. Goulburn, about the case pending in Court, within the past seven weeks. The answer was:—

I have not written any letters to Mrs. Goulburn about the matters pending in Court, either within the past seven weeks, or seven months, either. Mr. Bevan of the P.W.D., Mr. White, Sexton of the St. John's Cathedral, and I forget other 4 or 5 friends, lately said they would subscribe to get Goulburn down to Bangkok. That was about a fortnight ago. I really forget who the others were. It was to be done as a purely philanthropic affair. There was no other motive.

Mr. Fraser-Smith:—Have any five days elapsed for the past few months without Minibonett calling at your office?

Witness:—I don't remember exactly. I think on one occasion, Monday, three days elapsed without him calling at my office.

Mr. Fraser-Smith:—Had you any instructions from Minibonett, either direct or implied, to get Mr. Goulburn out of the colony?

Witness:—To the best of my knowledge, I had not.

Mr. Fraser-Smith:—You swear positively, on your solemn oath, that neither directly nor indirectly did you get instructions from the plaintiff to get Mr. Goulburn out of this colony?

Witness:—I did not.

Mr. Fraser-Smith:—And you never tried to get him out in Minibonett's interest?

Witness:—No.

At this juncture the Court adjourned until 10.30 tomorrow, when the examination in chief of Mr. Goulburn will be continued.

## REGATTA TIPS.

(FROM A VERY GREAT MAN.)

The training has in most cases been a farce right through. There is hardly one of the crews that has been three times in a boat together, except the English International. They have tried their best to keep the Scotch from winning, by changing their crew every day, and even now it is not decided who is going to row. For the Chairman's Cup rather more work has been done. This is how they will finish:—

Chairman's Cup:—Kennedy or Master's crew.

Garrison Cup:—Saunders' crew.

American Cup:—Very open. Probably the launch will finish alone and have to go back and pick up the other people.

International:—Irish.

Ladies' Purse:—Master's, certain.

German Cup:—Kennedy or Thompson's crew.

8 Oars Members Cup:—Club.

Sculls:—Navy.

Brokers' Cup:—John Andrew.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

(We do not necessarily endorse the opinions expressed by Correspondents in this column.)

## A CONTRADICTION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "HONGKONG TELEGRAPH." DEAR SIR,—I read a paragraph (reprinted from a northern paper) in your issue of today, viz. that the steamship *Venusta* took the ground, on entering Yokohama on the evening of the 3rd December. I would feel much obliged if you would kindly contradict this statement, as there is no truth in the above report. I had the same contradicted in the Yokohama paper.

Yours faithfully,

T. F. CREERY,

Commander, S. B. *Venusta*,  
Hongkong, 16th December, 1891.  
[Very glad to hear it.—Ed., H.K.T.]

## PASSENGERS BOOKED FOR CHINA.

Per Messageries Maritimes steamer *Sydney*, from Marseilles, Nov. 20th. To Shanghai; Mr. Fries.

Per P. & O. steamer *Chusan*, from London, Nov. 1st. To Shanghai; Mr. Gen. S. Woodward, Mr. Alex. Menzies, Mr. Frank E. Shindles, Mr. H. J. Mason, Miss A. Addison, Miss M. A. Wells, Mrs. Shaw, Mrs. E. O. Lindstrom, Mr. and Mrs. G. Brown, Mr. Mackintosh, Mrs. Helen Cameron. To Hongkong; Rev. E. B. and Mrs. Beauchamp, Sub-Lieut. S. H. Kest.

Per P. & O. steamer *Britannia*, from London, November 15th. To Shanghai; Mr. Pell, Mr. Feyer, Mr. Shaw, Mr. Benken, Mr. and Mrs. Dudgeon. To Hong Kong; Mr. and Mrs. Playfair, Mr. Babington, Mr. Risch, Mr. T. H. Reid.

Per P. & O. steamer *Tamisi*, from London, November 15th. To Shanghai; Mr. and Mrs. Yates. To Hong Kong; Mr. Holmes.

Per P. & O. steamer *Malwa*, from London, Nov. 15th. To Shanghai; Mr. A. H. Blanchard, Mr. C. B. Blanchard, Mrs. Blanchard, Miss Blanchard. To Hongkong; Mr. J. W. Fitham, Mr. Fitham, Jun., Mrs. C. Andrews, Mr. Salter, Colonel Hamilton, Miss G.

Per P. & O. steamer *Swire*, from London, Nov. 15th. To Shanghai; Mr. W. G. Robby, Mr. G. T. Howell, Mr. W. H. Warren, Mr. A. Preedy, Mr. W. Rudland, Mr. C. H. B. Green, Mr. G. W. Stokes, Mr. W. P. Knight. To Hongkong; Mr. Roberts, Captain Lewis, Sub-Lieut. G. E. Hand, R.N.

Per P. & O. steamer *Manilla*, from London, Nov. 15th. To Shanghai; Mr. A. C. Mott, Mr. E. M. Robertson, Mr. H. G. Mott. To Hong Kong; Mr. Eekel, Mr. A. Allison.

Per P. & O. steamer *Kladia*, from London, Dec. 1st. To Shanghai; Captain Bradshaw, Mr. G. G. Kest.

## NEWS BY THE AMERICAN MAIL.

The following telegrams from our San Francisco exchanges were "crowded out" of last night's issue:—

LONDON, November 6th.  
The Foreign Office awaits a response from Peking to the ultimatum demanding the adoption of measures to punish the leaders in the recent outrages. Sir John Lubbock, British Minister to China, has been directed to give the Chinese Government until the end of the month to reply, when, failing to get satisfaction, the combined foreign fleet will seize Shanghai and other treaty ports on the Yangtze-Kiang and the Powers will take control of the Customs of each port until the matter is disposed of.

The British Admiral now at Nagasaki, two days' steaming distance from Shanghai, has been warned to hold the squadron in readiness. A boat belonging to the collier *Kathleen* has been washed ashore at Clagton Sea, Essex. It is feared the collier, which carried a crew of seven men, has foundered with all on board. Lloyd's agent at Fremantle, Western Australia, telegraphs that the Norwegian bark *Abil* which sailed from New York on April 4th last, bound to Fremantle, has not yet arrived. Great anxiety prevails as to her safety.

A sensation has been caused at Stavanger, Norway, by a distinguished preacher, Otteid, accusing himself of immorality. He is a member of the Storting and a leader of an important political group supporting the policy of public morality. He confessed in the pulpit before a large congregation, begged forgiveness, and then announced his resignation.

PARIS, November 6th.  
The Melba-Orleans scandal continues to attract a good deal of attention, more even in the political world than elsewhere. Mme. Melba has got out of the way, as she attracts more attention than the little Duke. It would appear that she owes more than a million francs, and that her father, with his proverbial aversiveness, gave him an allowance of only 1,000 francs a month.

MADRID, November 6th.  
Admiral de Beranger, Minister of Marine, recently challenged the editor of a newspaper of this city to a fight. The duel was fought to-day. Four pistolshots were exchanged, but neither combatant was wounded. The second then declared that honor was satisfied and refused to allow further hostilities. Immediately after the duel it was announced that Beranger had resigned as Minister of Marine.

Advices from Chicago say that a terrific hurricane is sweeping over that place. The *Segur* has been overpowered and is foundering. The streets are impassable and a new bridge has been destroyed. Large numbers of cattle in the surrounding districts have been drowned.

The American *Charges d'Affaires* here, Mr. Newberry, became involved in a street brawl yesterday. Noticing some ladies vainly expostulating with a driver because of his driving on an overburdened horse, Newberry remonstrated with the driver, who, becoming insolent, had his ears boxed by Newberry. The driver and his companions then attempted to show fight, but, cowed by Newberry's manner, contented themselves with a torrent of vile language and endeavoring to incite a riot against the "foreigner." The driver was arrested.

Two passenger trains collided at Famalesca and a number of passengers were killed. The exact number is not known.

BOMBAY, November 6th.  
Three of the soldiers injured in the railroad accident yesterday have died.

HAVRE, November 6th.  
The cotton cargo of the British steamer *Challenger* from New Orleans, comprising 450 bales, which arrived at Havre to-day, is on fire and is burning fiercely.

BERLIN, November 6th.  
An inquiry is being made into the unlawful extension of mining galleries at Lichtenau, endangering the safety of the Silesian mountain range.

Herr Dreyer, another Alsatian manufacturer who was present at the Ferry banquet, has been dismissed from an office which he held.

ROME, November 6th.  
The health of the Pope continues excellent. He feels keenly the situation in which he is placed by the unfortunate incidents of the Pantheon, but there is no truth whatever in his rumored intention of quitting Rome. Much disappointment is felt in Vatican financial circles at the extremely meager result of the offerings of Peter's penance on Friday, the amount being only about \$500.

HAVANA, November 6th.  
The chief officer of the Spanish steamer *Emiliano*, from Liverpool, reports that four days after leaving that port Captain Bengtson was swept overboard by an enormous wave, and all efforts to rescue him were fruitless.

PARIS, November 8th.  
Le *Matin* prints a letter from Signor Crispi to M. Desmarests of the Paris bar, in which, after saying that "the Pope is consumed with ambition and would sell his soul to regain the temporal power of the Papacy," Signor Crispi expresses his approval of the neutralizing of Alsace-Lorraine, on condition that France joins the Dreikaiserbund. Alsace then, he says, will be a buffer between France and Germany. The Dreikaiserbund agreement, he adds, contains no word against France. He concludes by appealing to all men to unite to preserve Europe from war.

LONDON, November 8th.  
The *Standard*, in a leader on the Prince of Wales' sixtieth birthday, congratulates the Prince in highly eulogistic language, and concludes as follows:—"It is not always proof against the yielding, he can challenge comparison with none of his predecessors, and to the most dangerous temptation to interfere in political and constitutional controversies has been consistently superior."

The *Times* has a dispatch from Tangier saying:—"A plot has been discovered to place the Sultan's favorite brother, Muley Ismail, on the throne. The Sultan's chief adviser has been disgraced and dismissed, and Ismail, who was Caliph of Fez, has been reported sent to Morocco with several noble accomplices."

The *News*, commenting on the Board of Trade returns, says:—"The decrease of 50 per cent in trade with America may fairly be attributed to the McKinley law. The diminution in the demand from other countries must be ascribed to financial depression."

Some persons last night forced open the tomb of the Countess Mirafiori, the morganatic wife of the late King Victor Emmanuel, and set fire to the coffin. The case was compromised, but the sinners were not caught. The fire and the tomb were completely burned. There is no clue to the perpetrators.

VALPARAISO, November 8th.  
Advices from Rio Janeiro state that the new dictatorial Government has prohibited public meetings until all signs of uneasiness pass entirely away. The newspapers are commanded not to make any remarks about Da Fonseca's dissolution of Congress or the dictatorial proclamation. There are many evidences that the Republican party is disgusted with the acts of the President.

Baron de Lucena is the only one minister who remains in the Dictator's cabinet, and he is regarded as an imperialist. Both the army and navy continue to applaud Fonseca in the new role he has assumed.

The rumored uprising in the State of Rio Grande Do Sul seems to have died out, according to the latest news from that part of the republic, for everything is reported to be quiet.

RIO JANEIRO, November 8th.

A Government decree just issued orders the lease of the State railways for thirty-three years at a gold rental, half of which is payable in advance.

WASHINGTON, November 8th.  
The Brazilian Congress has fixed the salary of the President at \$40,000 per year, and that of the Vice-President at \$18,000.

DUBLIN, November 8th.  
John Dillon, speaking at Templemore to-day, said that Irishmen the world over were burning with pride and gratitude that the people of Cork had performed their duty so nobly. He appealed to the Parliament to consider the business of their position and seek for conciliation.

Timothy Healy declared that the landlords and Orangemen supported the Parnellites, and that Redmond received fully 100 Conservative votes.

LIMERICK, November 8th.  
This city to-day was the scene of a fierce conflict, in which forty soldiers and a mob of people were engaged. Four soldiers were seriously wounded. Six civilians were arrested.

LONDON, November 9th.  
Winter is commencing with unusual severity in Eastern Europe. There has been a black frost in Southern Russia, which, it is feared, will ruin winter crops. All the mountains in Greece are covered with snow and severe frosts have occurred.

PARIS, November 9th.  
Lafargue, the socialist yesterday elected Deputy of Lille, has been liberated from prison. It is reported that the Cabinet is inclined to grant general amnesty.

ROME, November 9th.  
Marquis di Rudini, the Italian Premier, to-day delivered a long speech at Milan. Part of his speech was devoted to the financial situation of the Government. During his remarks he announced a complete equilibrium of the budget. Not only were the established receipts fully equal to the expenditures, but even a small surplus in the receipts might be expected.

In his allusion to the Vatican Rudini said:—"We have in our midst the Papacy, which sometimes assumes a threatening attitude, but its sphere of action is limited to the exercise of spiritual powers, not only by a law which cannot be lightly contravened, but also by the almost unanimous consent of those who thought themselves most religious. The country's ecclesiastical policy has now become traditional. The honor and strength of the kingdom of Italy must be scrupulously maintained. The deplorable incidents produced by a few short sighted persons will not make us deviate from our course. Strong in the present and confident of the future, we fearlessly guarantee the fullest liberty in Rome." Rudini's remarks concerning the Papacy have produced a bad impression at the Vatican, his programme tending to make the Pope only the first subject of the King. The Pope will prepare a sharp note in reply.

The Italian newspapers, with exception of the clerical organs, are satisfied with Rudini's speech, but complain of its lack of explicitness on economic questions.

ST. PETERSBURG, November 9th.  
Acts of brigandage by men rendered desperate by hunger are increasing in Russia. Hundreds of men employed on the railways in Kanem, Kourak, and Verones have plundered freight trains and marauded the country in gangs, sackings farms and mansions.

The mortality among children from typhus fever and hunger is frightful. A woman at Chelabinsk killed her three children in the Carpathians. In the present and confident of the future, we fearlessly guarantee the fullest liberty in Rome." Rudini's remarks concerning the Papacy have produced a bad impression at the Vatican, his programme tending to make the Pope only the first subject of the King. The Pope will prepare a sharp note in reply.

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Acts of brigandage by men rendered desperate by hunger are increasing in Russia. Hundreds of men employed on the railways in Kanem, Kourak, and Verones have plundered freight trains and marauded the country in gangs, sackings farms and mansions.

The mortality among children from typhus fever and hunger is frightful. A woman at Chelabinsk killed her three children in the Carpathians. In the present and confident of the future, we fearlessly guarantee the fullest liberty in Rome." Rudini's remarks concerning the Papacy have produced a bad impression at the Vatican, his programme tending to make the Pope only the first subject of the King. The Pope will prepare a sharp note in reply.

The Italian newspapers, with exception of the clerical organs, are satisfied with Rudini's speech, but complain of its lack of explicitness on economic questions.

questions of time and wages, has finally been settled by compromise.

A dispatch from Nevres says that the falling of a cage in a mine shaft to-day injured three men, who were instantly killed and five fatally injured.

LONDON, November 11th.  
At a conference of the Liberal-Unionist Association at Manchester, Sir Henry James presided. Sir Henry was Attorney-General during Gladstone's last administration, but he was and is opposed to Gladstone's schemes for the establishment of home rule for Ireland. In his speech opening the meeting, Sir Henry claimed that recent experiences in Ireland (referring to the agricultural fight last week) proved that the policy of the Liberal Unionists was the only correct one. A letter from Joseph Chamberlain was read. He held the Gladstonians had lost confidence in the home rule movement, and they were trying to pass a bill to establish home rule, sandwiched between more alluring proposals.

The Marquis of Hartington complained of what he termed the apathy and cowardice of Unionists in Ireland as again revealed in the polling at the recent election in Cork, thus rendering the work of English Unionists doubly difficult.

Hartington has written a letter charging O'Brien with betraying the most important part of the Parnell correspondence at Boulogne. He cites a letter which Parnell wrote O'Brien suggesting that McCarthy obtain satisfactory assurances from Gladstone as to his policy and continue to act as a bridge between the home rulers. Then Parnell would constitute a good faith with the home rulers. (Then Parnell would constitute O'Brien chairman, he himself retiring in the latter's favor.) O'Brien proposed that his election to the chairmanship be effected without public conditions of any kind. He would seek an interview with Gladstone after his election, and if the latter's assurances were unsatisfactory he would resign the chairmanship. (O'Brien said Parnell and declare Parnell's leader.) O'Brien cabled Dillon in New York asking him to support him for chairman. Dillon telegraphed back: "Parnell is humbugging you." Hartington publishes a long series of communications and attacks Parnell, trusting O'Brien, and says his confidence was misplaced.

BRUSSELS, November 11th.  
The Imperial budget for 1892 shows the estimate of expenditures for the coming fiscal year to be in excess of the last by 110,000,000 marks, of which 65,000,000 is claimed as non-recurring expenditures. The receipts are estimated at 25,000,000 marks greater than last year. At all is proposed, authorizing a loan of 150,000,000 marks for the military, naval and railway departments, besides a loan for fortifying Holland.

PRAGUE, November 11th.  
The anarchists of Bohemia have been very active lately, and to-day the police made a raid, capturing six persons believed to be belonging to a plot being hatched. Among them is the notorious female anarchist Herget. A number of incriminating documents were captured.

LONDON, November 12th.  
Early this morning a fire in Bethnal Green, the eastern suburb of London, in the quarter occupied by lumber yards, factories and a large number of tenements filled with poor families, caused heavy damage. Only one casualty resulted, and that was the death of a child, which resulted from exposure. Among the property destroyed was an extensive lumber yard, a stock factory and a number of dwelling houses. Forty families are rendered homeless.

ROME, November 12th.  
Italy says it understands the United States Government has recognized its responsibility for the breach of international law in the New Orleans lynching affair, and the only question is the amount of indemnity to be paid by the United States.

LISBON, November 12th.  
The Portuguese Government, in view of the grave state of affairs in Brazil, has decided to send war ships to protect Portuguese interests in that republic.

NEW YORK, November 12th.  
A circular letter earnestly asking the co-operation of all religious and philanthropic societies in a determined effort to make New York city a better place to live in was sent out to-day. It was signed by a number of the most prominent men in New York, indicating a strong organization, which will undertake the work of reforming New York on a broad basis. There is plenty of money and power interested.

PARIS, November 12th.  
L'Éclair of this city publishes a dispatch from Athens which contains information of startling importance. In substance, the correspondent of L'Éclair states a conspiracy has been discovered in Athens, with ramifications in other portions of the kingdom, having for its object the overthrow of the present ruling dynasty of Greece. Among the prominent men said to be desirous of throwing aside the government of King George is Trikoupi, the well-known Greek statesman, who at one time held the position of Prime Minister of the kingdom.

In the Deputies to-day Laur accused Royer, Minister of Finance, of subjecting French finances to the control of Jewish financiers. Laur then demanded the expulsion of Jewish bankers from France. Royer, replying, declined to hold a discussion on such a proposition as that made by Laur in regard to the Jews. The country's finances, he declared, were managed with the greatest prudence. The motion of Laur was dismissed, 431 to 3.

The Pope has renewed his protest to the Minister of Worship against supporting the position taken by the Italian Government in connection with the recent pilgrim incident in Rome.

ST. PETERSBURG, November 12th.  
The authorities of the Russian War Office have resolved to construct a line of forts along the Chinese frontier and to increase the number of officers in Central Asia.

LONDON, November 13th.  
A widespread conspiracy to create a representative assembly has been discovered in Russia. Moscow is the center. Advices from St. Petersburg state that the authorities there are becoming more and more suspicious as to the internal situation of the empire, and are growing more critical. There is considerable uneasiness regarding the status of affairs throughout the empire. As a result of this feeling the marshals of the nobility exercising power and residing in different parts of the country have been warned that they will be held responsible for any manifestation of political feeling against the Government, which may occur in the provinces of the local administration under their control.

The bark which yesterday stranded off Kinshale, Ireland, in the *Gilly* from Quebec, October 21st, for Liverpool, the life-saving crew at Kinshale finally succeeded in raising the captain and four of the crew, but all of the other men of the bark were drowned. The number of those who lost their lives in the *Gilly* is seven.

The ship *Patella* which left the city of the loss at sea, the steamer *Patella*, No. 117, was wrecked.

The British ship *Tallman*, from Tacoma, June 12th, for Havre, passed Deal to-day. She reports that she was thrown on her beam ends

in a hurricane yesterday, and her cargo shifted, so it was necessary to jettison fifty tons of wheat. Much damage was done to the vessel by the storm.

The Duc de Tremouille and Duc de Noailles, prominent Orleanists, have arrived here for a conference with the Comte de Paris in regard to charges against the Duc d'Orleans in connection with the Melba divorce case. The Duc d'Orleans persists that his relations with Mme. Melba have been purely platonic. The French discuss the case as a matter that does not affect the political prospects of the Orleanists. The English papers give almost



